

**Annual Operating Instructions
2014
Black Hills/Enterprise Allotment
Pine Valley RD, Dixie NF**

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
Brandon and Amber Humphries	NA	70	Cow/calf	05/16 – 10/15	70	Cow/calf	06/01 – 10/15
<small>*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit. **Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.</small>							

Non-use

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the “on” date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use requested: The shortened grazing season is in response to drought conditions and reflects a 10% reduction in days.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*
Calf Springs	06/01 – 08/15
Black Hills	08/16 – 10/15

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves require prior approval by the District Ranger.

Type of rotation: Deferred

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above.

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: None

Additional instructions: None

UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria						
Vegetation Type		Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas (Pendleton Spring)		6"	6"	6"	6"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Hydric species in wet meadows not influenced by streams (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6"	6"	4"	4"	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas (i.e. Kentucky bluegrass)		2"			Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.	
Upland species		50%			Varying in specific unit from 40-60%.	
Wheatgrass seedings		60%			Management option to exceed 60% to maintain healthy seedings.	
Riparian browse		<50%			New leader production.	
Streambank alteration		<20%			Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, & animal tracks.	
Goshawk nest areas & post-fledging family areas (PFAs)	Grass & forbs	<20%			Average <20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any given area.	
	Shrubs	<40%			Average <40% by weight and not exceed 50% in any given area.	

The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule. You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Additional instructions: NONE

BILLING

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. **All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering pasture being used**, even in the event of non-use. Standards are in part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit or at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml> . Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled improvement Maintenance for **2014** season:

Improvement Type	Improvement Name	Size	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Fence	Black Hills/Gunlock Division	2.0 Miles	From east rim of Flat top mtn to the lava belt south of Aspen Dry lake	Brandon & Amber Humphries
Fence	Black Hills/Enterprise Division Fence	1.0 miles	From East rim of Flat Top Mtn to east side of the corner pond Non-continuous fence	Brandon & Amber Humphries
Fence	Calf Springs/Black Hills pasture	.75 miles	From Alger Ranch Property, southwest to Calf springs Ranch	Calf Springs Private land owner
Fence	Flat Top Aspen Exclosure	1 acre		Forest Service
Randell Well	Spring Development			50% Brandon & Amber Humphries. 50% Enterprise Allot
Randell Pipeline	Storage tank & troughs	1.0 Miles		Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Aspen Dry Lake			Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Black hills Ponds # 1,2,3	.1 acre each		Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Beacon Pond	.1 acre		Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Flat Top # 1, #2	.1 acre each		Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Birch Creek	.1 acre		Brandon & Amber Humphries
Stock pond	Glenn Hafen	.1 acre		Brandon & Amber Humphries

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: None

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

You or the association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within 30 days of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 ft. of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Dixie National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml>).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

Additional instructions: (see next page)

PVRD BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT

1. Grazing management practices will be implemented that:

- a) Maintain sufficient residual vegetation and litter on both upland and riparian sites to protect the soil from wind and water erosion and support ecological functions;
- b) Promote attainment or maintenance of proper functioning condition riparian/wetland areas, appropriate stream channel morphology, desired soil permeability and infiltration, and appropriate soil conditions and kinds and amounts of plants and animals to support the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow;
- c) Meet the physiological requirements of desired plants and facilitate reproduction and maintenance of desired plants to the extent natural conditions allow;
- d) Maintain viable and diverse populations of plants and animals appropriate for the site;
- e) Provide or improve, within the limits of site potentials, habitat for Threatened or Endangered Species;
- f) Avoid grazing management conflicts with other species that have the potential of becoming protected or special status species;
- g) Encourage innovation, experimentation and the ultimate development of alternatives to improve rangeland management practices;
- h) Give priority to rangeland improvement projects and land treatments that offer the best opportunity for achieving the Standards.

2. Any spring or seep developments will be designed and constructed to protect ecological process and functions and improve livestock, wild horse and wildlife distribution.

3. New rangeland projects for grazing will be constructed in a manner consistent with the Standards. Considering economic circumstances and site limitations, existing rangeland projects and facilities that conflict with the achievement or maintenance of the Standards will be relocated and/or modified.

4. Livestock salt blocks and other nutritional supplements will be located away from riparian/wetland areas or other permanently located, or other natural water sources. It is recommended that the locations of these supplements be moved every year.

5. The use and perpetuation of native species will be emphasized. However, when restoring or rehabilitating disturbed or degraded rangelands nonintrusive, nonnative plant species are appropriate for use where native species:

a) are not available

b) are not economically feasible

c) cannot achieve ecological objectives as well as normative species,

d) cannot compete with already established native species.

6. When rangeland manipulations are necessary, the best management practices, including biological processes, fire and intensive grazing, will be utilized prior to the use of chemical or mechanical manipulations.

7. When establishing grazing practices and rangeland improvements, the quality of the outdoor recreation experience is to be considered. Aesthetic

and scenic values, water, campsites and opportunities for solitude are among those considerations.

8. Feeding of hay and other harvested forage (which does not refer to miscellaneous salt, protein, and other supplements) for the purpose of substituting for inadequate natural forage will not be conducted on USFS lands other than in:

a) emergency situations where no other resource exists and animal survival is in jeopardy

b) situations where the District Ranger determines such a practice will assist in meeting a Standard or attaining a management objective.

9. In order to eliminate, minimize, or limit the spread of noxious weeds:

a) only hay cubes, hay pellets, or certified weed-free hay will be fed on USFS lands

b) reasonable adjustments in grazing methods, methods of transport, and animal husbandry practices will be applied.

10. To avoid contamination of water sources and inadvertent damage to non-target species, aerial application of pesticides will not be allowed within 100 feet of a riparian/ wetland area unless the product is registered for such use by the EPA.

11. On rangelands where a standard is not being met, and conditions are moving toward meeting the standard, grazing may be allowed to continue. On lands where a standard is not being met, conditions are not improving toward meeting the standard or other management objectives, and

livestock grazing is deemed responsible, administrative action with regard to livestock will be taken by the District Ranger pursuant to USFS regulation and policy.

12. Where it can be determined that more than one kind of grazing animal is responsible for failure to achieve a Standard, and adjustments in management are required, those adjustments will be made to each kind of animal, based on interagency cooperation as needed, in proportion to their degree of responsibility.

13. Rangelands that have been burned, reseeded or otherwise treated to alter vegetative composition will be closed to livestock grazing as follows:

a) burned rangelands, whether by wildfire or prescribed burning, will be ungrazed for minimum of one complete growing season following the burn;

b) rangelands that have been reseeded or otherwise chemically or mechanically treated will be ungrazed for a minimum of two complete growing seasons.

14. Conversions in kind of livestock (such as from sheep to cattle) will be analyzed in light of Forest Health Standards. Where such conversions are not adverse to achieving a Standard, or they are not in conflict with the forest plan, the conversion may be considered.